Un-Common Read: ***When The Rivers Run Dry***

IDH 2930 (1 Credit; Section 2D09) – Fall 2018

**VERSION 1**

**Syllabus**

**Instructor**: Joseph J. Delfino, PhD, BCES

Professor Emeritus, Environmental Engineering Sciences

Adjunct Lecturer, Honors Program

**Contact Information:**

* Contact the Instructor in class or via E-mail to [delfino@ufl.edu](mailto:delfino@ufl.edu)
* Primary Office Time: Open door, Wed., 9:30 – 10:45 AM in 310 AP Black Hall
* Alternate: By appointment as needed – arrange in advance via email or in class

**Class Time and Location:**

* Wednesday, 11:45 AM – 12:35 PM (5th Period) in Room 117 Little Hall

**Course Narrative:**

* Over 70 percent of the Earth's surface is water-covered, and the oceans hold about 96.5 percent of all Earth's water, leaving relatively little fresh and potentially potable water available for over 7 Billion people and the entire terrestrial plant and animal community. Yet, with all of the water on the planet, there are millions of people who have inadequate fresh water for their daily lives and improper or non-existent sanitation facilities to adequately treat their wastes. Added to the usual list of problems is the growing influence of global climate change on water resources and water availability. Climate change as well as various human activities have affected and continue to influence fresh water availability.

**Course Details:**

* This is a one credit discussion seminar course and will formally meet for one class period on Wednesday each week at 11:45 AM [5th Period] in **Little Hall Room 117**. Alternative time/place may be scheduled in advance.
* Each registrant will be responsible for leading discussions covering their assigned topic(s) related to the un-common reading book [***When The Rivers Run Dry***]. Class presentations will summarize information included in the reading assignment and include questions directed to class members to initiate discussion.
* PowerPoint slides are appropriate to support the presentations.
* Written assignments based on the assigned readings will be due in class at the beginning of each session. Details to be provided in the first class session on August 22 in Week 1.

**Course Objectives:** To:

* Learn the concepts underlying water resources and the ways in which human development of landscapes and use/abuse of water has created water supply issues in many areas of the planet. Fred Pearce’s book is the starting point for the information to be discussed.
* Predict the ways in which changing climate can affect the hydrologic cycle.
* Learn about methods for water and wastewater treatment technology and other topics in environmental engineering and science that are directed toward the water cycle and preserving/improving water quality.

**Course Grading:**

* Grades will be issued based on: (a) preparation, delivery and discussion quality of the student’s classroom presentation; (b) the student’s attendance and participation in class discussions when others are making their presentations; (c) weekly written assignments based on text readings; and (d) a final oral discussion with the instructor to be scheduled prior to the end of classes.
* Letter grades will be based on the following distribution of effort:
  + a) Individual classroom oral presentation (25 pts);
  + b) Attendance each week - required (15 pts);
  + c) Active participation in classroom discussions (15 pts);
  + d) Written assignments – (35 pts);
  + e) Final oral discussion (10 pts).
* **Letter grades** will be assigned according to the number of points earned, using 100 points as the maximum earnable points and the ranges given below:
  + A and A- (100 – 90 pts)
  + B+, B (89 – 80 pts)
  + B-, C+, C (79 – 70 pts)
  + C-, D+, D (69 – 60 Pts)
  + E (< 60 pts).
* **Attendance** and **Absences.** Weekly attendance in class is required since there are limited class meetings during the semester. Unexcused absences will be reflected in the attendance portion of the course grade with each such absence resulting in a 5 pt. grading penalty. After three unexcused absences, no points will be allowed for class attendance. If necessary, with advance notice, an additional written assignment may substitute for a class meeting.
* Students in conjunction with the Instructor are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the Instructor in the Syllabus. Absences count beginning with the second class meeting.
* In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements for other courses (e.g. field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) can be excused in advance. Other reasons also may be approved but must be requested prior to the scheduled class.
* Students should discuss with the instructor any optional assignment required to make up the material or activities covered in any class that was missed.
* Students cannot participate in classes unless they are officially registered. The Office of the University Registrar provides the official class rolls to instructors.
* If a student does not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of the course in which they are registered, **and** he or she has not contacted the Honors Program or Instructor to indicate his or her intent to remain in the course, the student may automatically be dropped from the course. If a student has any questions about this, contact the Honors Program office or the Instructor.
* The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After unexcused absences and due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for unexcused absences.

**Course Reading Book**:

***When The Rivers Run Dry***, by Fred Pearce. Beacon Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8070-5489-5. The book should be available from the UF Bookstore or from on-line sources. Instructor will provide individual chapter copies until the book is available. but not thereafter. Plan ahead.

**Academic Honesty**:

Students at UF commit themselves to uphold the Honor Code, and have accepted the pledge: *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.”*

All homework, reports, and papers must represent a student’s own individual work unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Plagiarism in writing assignments is not acceptable and violates the Honor Code. Such violations will receive severe grading penalties and will be reported to the Dean of Students as well as the student’s College Dean and the Honors Program Director. Students have the responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Full details are available on the Honor Code website: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/resources/shca>

**Class Schedule:**

Week 2018 *When The Rivers Run Dry* Topic Leader(s)\*

1 Aug 22 Introduction Dr. D.

2 Aug 29 Springs Hydrology Dr. R. Knight

3 Sep 5 Field Trip to UF STP [tent.] Dr. D.

4 Sep 12 Water Resources in Florida Dr. D.

5 Sep 19 Pearce Chapters TBA

6 Sep 26 Pearce Chapters TBA

7 Oct 3 Pearce Chapters TBA

8 Oct 10 Pearce Chapters TBA

9 Oct 17 Pearce Chapters TBA

10 Oct 24 Pearce Chapters TBA

11 Oct 31 Pearce Chapters TBA

12 Nov 7 Pearce Chapters TBA

13 Nov 14 Pearce Chapters TBA

Nov 21 No Class –T-giving Holiday Drive Safely

14 Nov 28 Discussion

15 Dec 5 Discussion

Last Class Session – Semester Ends

\* A separate listing of Pearce’s chapter topics and assigned student discussion leaders will to be distributed in class once the final class roll is determined at the conclusion of the Drop/Add period.

**Software Use:**

* All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Campus Help Resources:**

* Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Recourses are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance:
* *University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road,* 352-392-1601, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/) Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Training Programs, Community Provider Database.
* *Career Resource Center,* 1st Floor, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)

**Students with Disabilities Act:**

* Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resources Center (352-392-8565) or [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Course Evaluations:**

* Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

**Religious Observations:**

* Request for excused absences from class to allow participation in religious observations should be made to the instructor as a courtesy in advance of the absence. If a student requesting this absence is scheduled to be leading a discussion on that day, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange with another student in the class to switch the dates and topics of their previously established requirements. Please inform the instructor of this “trade” in advance of the day in which it is to occur.

**Cell Phone Management:**

• Cell phones use is not permitted during the class period. Please silence your phone and keep it in a backpack or purse during the full class period. After the first violation, any subsequent violation will result in you not getting credit for attendance in class for that day.

**Summary of Course Deliverables & Special Events; see Class Schedule above for activities each week; listed here are specific activities that are part of the Syllabus schedule; Voluntary Additional Class Meetings are Possible (TBA):**

**August 22 through September 27, 2018 [action date in brackets]**

+ obtain the actual book for ***When the Rivers Run Dry*** and start reading it [≥ August 28]; use e-copies from Instructor until book arrives

+ Final submission of Bio-Sketches and photos [August 29]

+ Discussion leaders assigned for student-led discussions [Sept. 5]

+ Field Trip to UF Water Reclamation Facility [TBA]

**September 19, 2018 and subsequent dates [see Syllabus]**

+ Student presentations begin based on chapters in Pearce

**November 13, 2018 through December 4, 2018**

+ Final Individual Student Oral Discussion Session with course Instructor [to be scheduled in advance on sign-up sheet in class].

Version 1: August 13, 2018